



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## DRAFT MEMORANDUM

**To:** Council of Mayors Executive Committee  
**From:** Holly Ostdick  
**Date:** February 5, 2008  
**Re:** Active Program Management Update

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This memo was drafted as a follow up to the great discussion at the last Executive Committee meeting. Since the November meeting, CMAP staff has attempted to meet with all Executive Committee members and their Planning Liaisons (PL) to continue the dialogue on Active Program Management (APM). We've also worked with regional and local organizations to collect data to complete the first quarter report and make TIP changes to accurately reflect what is programmed in the region.

The draft first quarter report for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2008 is attached. The report shows what was accomplished within the first quarter (July 2007 through September 2007) of SFY 08 for multiple funding sources. We are comparing the expended amounts with the available appropriations. In order to efficiently and effectively use the limited resources available to the region and to avoid rescission of federal transportation dollars to the region, our goal is to use all of our appropriations and beyond within the SFY. Our goal is to provide information on a timely basis to the Councils of Mayors to be able to more effectively gauge the region's progress on spending limited federal resources in the region.

At some of our meetings, the mayors discussed the effectiveness of this report and suggested other reports that may be useful to the Councils. It was suggested that funding source reports solely for STP and other federal funds be produced. CMAP is working with the PLs and with other regional agencies to produce these reports. Along with these individual reports, CMAP will also work with programmers to update the TIP with the most accurate information including scheduling and cost information. This will allow a more accurate prediction of the region's ability to expend federal funds and enable a discussion of what alternative actions need to be taken by the region to avoid rescissions.

To assist with the completeness and usefulness of project information in the TIP, a new TIP database is being created, which will include additional tracking abilities on a project by project basis. Better tracking of the projects will allow CMAP to assist the Councils with moving projects along if there is a delay. Staff anticipates better tracking will identify trends that can delay projects and CMAP will work with the affected agencies to solve the issues. The new database will also allow new sorting and reporting abilities to assist in the comprehension of

data within the TIP. It is the intent to make the database a more robust and user friendly tool. CMAP staff has been working with consultants and expect a test version in approximately 2 months.

### **Alternative Actions**

As previously mentioned, there are alternative actions that can be taken to spend down federal resources. Numerous ideas were discussed during our meetings with the mayors. When rescissions occur they affect the entire region – not just an individual Council. It would be great if the Council of Mayors as a whole continues to work together to spend down the regional balances. This requires local Councils to be willing to acknowledge that some of their projects are not going to be accomplished by their programmed completion date and allowing other Councils to borrow that money. Another option that has been suggested is if Councils are unable to use all the funds in the current year's mark, IDOT could borrow STP mark balance and pay it back to the Councils in future years. Some Councils have used the solution of having a call for Local Area Pavement Preservation (LAPP) projects to spend the balance of unused STP funds. There has been a long standing discussion of whether this type of project is an effective use of STP funds. If the region was able to come together and determine one large and regionally significant project to spend unobligated STP dollars, it could be more effective in the use of our limited federal resources. Ultimately, CMAP is attempting to provide you with enough information and data to be able to develop alternative measures to effectively spend down balances.

### **Reasons for APM**

This year the Texas Transportation Institute released its annual traffic report card, and again Northeastern Illinois was the second worst region in terms of congested roadways. Northeastern Illinois, as a region, has extreme transportation needs and the region needs to use the limited federal resources received as efficiently as possible to solve our transportation issues. Second, SAFETEA-LU, the national transportation bill, expires in 2009. The region wants to have as much influence in the reauthorization of this bill as possible. This will be difficult if federal dollars are left on the table. How can the region request an increase in federal dollars if previous funds appropriated have not been expended? Thirdly, at the last Executive Committee meeting the committee asked CMAP staff to draft a letter to the region's legislators requesting that the next rescission not affect STP funds. Although the letter writing campaign was effective, written into the recent Federal Energy Bill (HR6) is a requirement that future rescissions be proportional to apportionments. Lastly, the region can borrow from other regions in the state. Spending all of our local appropriations does not mean we cannot complete any other projects until the next year. Attached to this memo is a spreadsheet that shows how other regions in Illinois borrowed against one another.

### **Council of Mayors Roles**

Some excellent examples of how local Council of Mayors are embracing the Active Program Management initiative are the addition of standing agenda items regarding APM for their local meetings. Other Councils have reformatted their programs to better reflect the progress projects are making.